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Agenda item 2

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY,
INCLUDING REGIONAL AND SECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
a non-governmental organization in consultative status
with the Economic and Social Council, category I

The Secretariat has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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The 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Nicosia in April 1990, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

ACTION TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING

The 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, */ representing Parliaments around the world,

Increasingly concerned at the scale of the international problem of drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking,

Alarmed by the threat this poses to the health of the world population, particularly the young, and to the political, economic and social structures of States,

Equally alarmed at the social and economic impact on the family where stress, broken homes and loneliness all too often result in recourse to drugs and in turn to physical and mental abuse,

Believing that problems of drug production and trafficking are inextricably linked to the need to expand trade, particularly in agricultural products for drug crop replacement, to tackle poverty and build prosperity, especially in countries going through economic and political transition,

Realizing that there is no longer any justification for making the traditional distinction between producing, trafficking and consuming countries, because all concerned are now affected simultaneously by production, trafficking and consumption problems,

*/ The Inter-Parliamentary Union's membership currently consists of 113 national Parliaments: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Associate members: Andean Parliament and European Parliament.

Conscious that supply and demand are inseparably linked and constitute a single problem, since demand not only generates but is also fuelled by supply,

Aware that drug traffickers are continually exploiting new transit routes so that an increasing number of countries, large and small, are being affected,

Also aware that criminal organizations resort to corruption, violence and the use of arms to reap enormous profits from the illicit drug trade,

Recognizing that better international co-operation and concerted action are essential to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Recalling the resolutions and declarations adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union at its 60th (Rome, 1972), 74th (Ottawa, 1985) and 82nd Conferences (London, 1989), as well as the Final Declaration and Recommendations of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in the Western Hemisphere (Caracas, 1987),

Expressing its concern at the considerable reduction in the budget and staff of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, which threatens their ability to perform effectively,

Noting that the United Nations plays a leading role in drug abuse control but that it is hampered by a lack of human and financial resources,

Also noting the need to improve the cost-effectiveness of the United Nations drug abuse control bodies by rationalizing their structure,

Recalling that the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (Vienna, June 1987) adopted the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, which provides useful guidelines for international co-operation against drugs,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, adopted at Vienna in December 1988,

Recognizing specially the importance of removing the profits of the illicit drug trade by tracing, freezing and confiscating the proceeds of drug trafficking which fuel the prosperity and power of organized crime,

Supporting the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action on international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances which was adopted at the seventeenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly in February 1990,

Aware of the efforts of countries that produce drugs for scientific and medicinal purposes to prevent the leakage of such substances into the illicit market,

Recognizing the need for international co-operation to control better the export of chemical substances used to manufacture illicit drugs and psychotropic substances,

Realizing that success in reducing the world-wide problem of drug misuse depends upon the effectiveness of community participation in a comprehensive strategy, including the reduction of supply and of demand, particularly among young people,

Aware that education, especially health education, has a crucial part to play in reducing demand,

1. Emphatically condemns the crime of drug trafficking, the activities of the criminal organizations behind it and the laundering of illicit earnings from those activities;
2. Reaffirms its solidarity with Governments and peoples which are combating criminal narcotics production, consumption and trafficking;
3. Calls on all Governments to renew their commitment and intensify their efforts to combat trafficking, reduce demand, suppress production of illicit drugs, strengthen preventive measures and improve treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts;
4. Stresses that any aid rendered by one country to another in the field of action to combat drug production and trafficking must receive the approval of the beneficiary country, respect the sovereignty of States and conform to the principles of the United Nations;
5. Recommends a comprehensive multilateral approach to the drug problem as indispensable to the pursuit of the global struggle against drugs;
6. Calls for improved analysis of results obtained, the study of other approaches to the problem of drug misuse and trafficking, and better dissemination internationally of the results of such analysis;
7. Expresses support for the Declaration of Cartagena for a plan for alternative development, signed in February 1990 by the Presidents of Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and the United States of America;
8. Urges all Governments to apply, as appropriate, the recommendations in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline agreed at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (Vienna, 1987);
9. Urgently appeals to all countries that have not yet ratified the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, to do so without delay and to adopt the necessary measures at the domestic level to implement these instruments;
10. Endorses United Nations General Assembly resolutions 44/140, 44/141 and 44/142 concerning, respectively, the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the global programme of action against illicit narcotic drugs and international action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, as well as the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action on international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and

distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which was adopted at the seventeenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly in February 1990;

11. Recommends that Parliaments urge their respective Governments to ensure that the United Nations drug abuse control bodies are guaranteed sufficient funds to carry out and improve their activities;

12. Calls on developed nations and other donors to ensure that additional funds are made available to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control;

13. Urges States to introduce the necessary legislation to enable the tracing, freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking and to negotiate and sign bilateral agreements with other States to reciprocate these powers;

14. Requests countries that produce the chemical substances necessary for the manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to adopt measures that ensure effective control of the export of these substances;

15. Urges States to devote resources to reducing the demand for drugs, as speedily and comprehensively as possible, by social policies and measures aimed particularly at young people, focusing, inter alia, on education, especially health education, information, publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, and on unemployment, poverty and hunger;

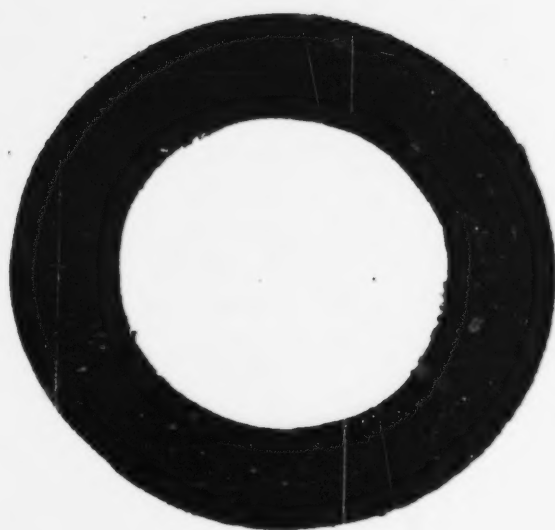
16. Further urges all Governments and international organizations to reduce trade barriers, expand trade and increase economic and technical aid in order to support alternative development plans, stabilize developing economies and encourage freedom, prosperity and democratic stability, all of which are essential to the success of national and international efforts to tackle all problems;

17. Exhorts Governments, when formulating social policies, to take full account of the special threat that drug abuse poses to family structures;

18. Supports the Heads of State and Government World Summit for Children, scheduled to be held in New York in September 1990, at which the comprehensive struggle against drug abuse will be one of the major themes considered;

19. Invites all Governments, public authorities, associations and parties to mark appropriately every year on 26 June the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental
organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council,
category I

The Secretariat has received the following statement, which is circulated
in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Economic and Social Council
resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

The 82nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference held in London in September 1989, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

THE POPULATION AND FOOD EQUATION AND THE SEARCH FOR RATIONAL
AND EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF THIRD WORLD DEBT
TO ENSURE THAT THE WORLD CAN EAT

The 82nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, */

Stressing that the right to food is a universal human right and, for millions of people in the world, is synonymous with the right to life,

Noting that armed conflict and man's inhumanity to man constitute major threats to the food security of millions of human beings,

Expressing grave concern at the serious and steadily worsening situation of food and agriculture in many developing countries, particularly in Africa, where food production is outstripped by population growth,

Further expressing grave concern that, while global food production is increasing at a faster rate than population growth, food aid has not increased,

Deeply concerned by the fact that over 500 million human beings throughout the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition, in particular children, pregnant women, women who have just given birth and the aged, who are the most vulnerable to this condition,

Noting with regret that the main goal of the 1974 World Food Conference, namely, to eradicate hunger in the world within a decade, will not be achieved even by the end of this century,

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Recalling that the imposition of coercive economic measures constitutes a breach of international law and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations,

Emphasizing therefore that food and agricultural issues must remain at the core of global attention,

Stressing that the hunger and malnutrition affecting an increasing number of people are the most glaring evidence of the present inferior position of developing countries in the world economy and of the unfavourable conditions prevailing in international economic relations,

Recognizing that agriculture is a key sector in the achievement of social, economic and financial balance in developing countries, for most of which food and agriculture self-sufficiency is a priority goal,

Concerned that the economies of developing countries are affected, *inter alia*, by an unfavourable international economic environment characterized by worsening terms of trade, a net outflow of financial resources from the developing countries as a whole, a growing debt burden, depressed prices for most commodities and rising protectionist pressures, which prevent their economic growth and development,

Emphasizing that the external debt problem of developing countries is a growing threat to their economic, social and political stability and that, as a result of the increasing interdependence of the world economy, it would also have a negative impact world-wide,

Recognizing the need for effective international co-operation and consultation, primarily between debtors and creditors, in order to solve the external debt problem of developing countries on a lasting, fair and mutually acceptable basis,

Noting that a global strategy of debt relief for developing countries is long overdue,

Recognizing that creditor countries have already taken concrete measures regarding this matter,

Reaffirming the shared responsibility of all parties involved in resolving the external debt crisis,

Recognizing that dire poverty is generally coupled with major threats to the environment, such as soil degradation and erosion, desertification and deforestation,

Stressing that sustainable protection of the environment should be an integral part of development planning,

Aware that the world population was 5 billion in 1988 and will reach an estimated 6.1 billion by the year 2000, that 90 per cent of the projected population increase will take place in developing countries and that by the year 2000 there will be nearly 1.6 billion women of child-bearing age in developing countries,

Noting that population growth estimates for coming years reveal even greater challenges for the future,

Deeply concerned that the growing world population is placing a strain on food supply and security,

Noting that, although women carry out 60 to 90 per cent of agricultural production, their role in family planning, population, agricultural and environmental activities is often overlooked in development assistance programmes,

Also noting the role of women as mothers, wives and productive forces, and stressing the importance of their participation on an equal footing with men in social, economic and political life,

Further noting that the provision of adequate food supplies for the world's populations, particularly those in poorer countries, poses an intellectual, moral and logistic challenge for all peoples and all nations,

Also noting with concern that driftnet fishing is likely to seriously affect fishery resources and the third world's ability to obtain food supplements,

Recalling the following:

(a) United Nations General Assembly resolutions on:

The recommendations of the World Conference on Population (1974);

The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (35/56);

The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;

The Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries (36/194);

Agro-food problems (33/134, 41/191, 43/190, 43/191);

The Final Act adopted by the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

The document on the African position with regard to Africa's foreign debt crisis;

The strengthening of international co-operation in relation to foreign debt problems (41/202, 43/198);

(b) The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States;

(c) The declarations and initiatives of the World Food Council concerning the struggle against hunger in the world (Beijing Declaration, June 1987; Cyprus Initiative, June 1988; Cairo Declaration, May 1989);

Further recalling the terms of the resolution adopted by the 69th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Rome, 1982), on hunger in the world,

Also recalling the resolutions adopted by:

The 71st Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Geneva, 1984), on population problems;

The 73rd and 74th Inter-Parliamentary Conferences (Lomé and Ottawa, 1985) on the problem of international debt;

The 77th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Managua, 1987) on the establishment of equitable international trade;

Lastly recalling the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa (Harare, 1986),

Noting the efforts made by United Nations agencies and bodies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations, to solve the world's population and food problems,

Population

1. Affirms that family planning is a basic human right and that all persons should have access to information and education in order to exercise that right in determining their family size and birth spacing without outside intervention;
2. Also affirms the right of Governments to establish their own national population policies which should in no way prejudice the right to voluntary choice of family size;
3. Calls on all Governments to assume responsibility for providing the educational opportunities needed to secure economic, social and political equality and fundamental rights for women;
4. Recommends that service delivery systems be expanded to ensure that the 300 million women reported in the United Nations World Fertility Survey as not practising family planning have access to it;
5. Calls on all Governments to place an emphasis on activities in the health sector, including measures to reduce infant and maternal mortality and to promote child care and birth spacing;
6. Further calls on all Governments to increase population activities in the educational sector, including family-life education in schools and educational programmes to encourage social and economic development within populations and to develop the local human resource base;
7. States that the creation of peaceful conditions of development for members of the world community, continuing demilitarization and humanization of international relations, progress in disarmament and the defusing and settlement of regional conflicts are essential pre-conditions for the effective solution of global problems in the interests of all nations, and must take due account of the special needs of developing countries;

Food

8. Urges the Parliaments and Governments of all countries to make concerted efforts at the national and international levels aimed at eradicating hunger in the world, and to view this objective as one of the priority tasks of the international community;
9. Stresses that there will only be a lasting improvement in the world food situation when the developing countries increase their food production and attain self-sufficiency;
10. Stresses also that the solution of the food problem in developing countries is their own basic and primary responsibility;
11. Recommends to all creditor nations that they agree to low interest rates for food import assistance and funds provided to strengthen the agricultural sector, including rural infrastructure, thereby helping those countries where production lags behind population growth to obtain food and, from a long-term planning point of view, to harness their considerable known reserves of potential arable land;
12. Calls for sustained and adequate international support and co-operation in order to establish food security in developing countries;
13. Stresses in particular that structural adjustment programmes to reduce subsidies for food products and inputs and cut back education and health budgets can only increase underdevelopment in these countries and jeopardize their food security;
14. Welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the 14th ministerial session of the World Food Council, held at Nicosia in May 1988 and, in particular, the Cyprus Initiative, as well as the Beijing Declaration (1987) and the Cairo Declaration (1989) affirming that the world possesses the technological means to combat hunger, and urges all Governments to contribute to the full implementation of these documents;
15. Notes with appreciation the activities and role of the United Nations, particularly those of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in improving the world food situation and eradicating hunger, and supports the further development of the Global Information and Early Warning System of the Food and Agriculture Organization;
16. Urges Governments and Parliaments to establish a joint food reserve, such as the reserves already set up by the member countries of the South Asia Association for Regional Co-operation (totalling between 200,000 and 300,000 tons) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (totalling 53,000 tons);

Debt

17. Deplores the coercive measures frequently applied by certain developed countries against third world countries as a means of exerting political pressure, which measures create a critical economic situation in the countries concerned;

18. Calls for the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly draft decision sponsored by the Group of 77 on the establishment of an advisory international debt and development commission, and for this commission to develop appropriate mechanisms or modalities effectively to implement debt-reduction schemes;

19. Stresses that the improvement of global economic conditions and more equitable distribution of income and wealth are fundamental pre-conditions for an effective solution to the problems of hunger and malnutrition;

20. Urges Parliaments to give strong and active support to current efforts made in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to reduce agricultural support and protection, particularly in developed countries;

21. Stresses that the debt crisis has a negative impact on the world economy, in particular on international trade, and that concrete measures and actions by both debtors and creditors are needed to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries and open up new avenues for the sustained economic growth and development of all countries, the developing countries in particular;

22. Expresses deep concern about the increasing external debt problem of developing countries, which represents the most serious hindrance to their economic growth and development;

23. Acknowledges the urgency of reducing real interest rates and extending payment, grace and consolidation periods so as to alleviate the debt burden of developing countries, and stresses that the official debts of the least developed countries should be cancelled or partly converted into grants;

24. Emphasizes that, in providing assistance to developing countries so that they may pursue adjustment programmes, the International Monetary Fund should not use conditionality criteria that fail to take account of the particular economic, political and social situation and objectives of these countries;

25. Appeals to the Governments of the developed countries to accord exemption from debt repayment to countries suffering from famine and to show special appreciation to countries that have succeeded in meeting their international foreign debt obligations;

26. Stresses the need to reverse the disquieting rise in protectionism in developed countries, points out that trade liberalization, as envisaged in the Ministerial Declaration launching the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, should confirm the validity of the principle of the differential, more favourable, non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory treatment of developing countries, thus contributing to national economic growth and social progress in these countries, and confirms the need for the full implementation of the provisions of the Declaration of Punta del Este concerning tropical products;

27. Calls for the effective elimination of protectionist market regulations in the industrial countries in order to provide genuine export opportunities for third world countries;

28. Affirms that all forms of protectionism hamper the liberalization of world trade and deprive developing countries of outlets and, consequently, of a continuous supply of the resources they need to accelerate modernization of their agricultural sectors and increase food production and productivity;

29. Urges all debtors and creditors to continue to seek, through dialogue and on the basis of shared responsibility, a lasting, fair and mutually agreed solution to the external indebtedness of developing countries;

30. Also urges the United Nations Secretary-General to encourage the members of the international community to demonstrate the political will to convene an international conference on foreign debt under United Nations auspices, in which all Member States would participate fully and on an equal footing;

31. Welcomes as a positive development the evolution in approaches to the debt problem of developing countries on the part of creditor countries, including the latest initiative to reduce debts and debt service;

32. Recommends to the Parliaments of countries represented in the Inter-Parliamentary Union that they place the food question and the debt problem of developing countries on the agenda of their sessions;

Food resources and sustainable development

33. Affirms that the protection of the earth's environment and resource base for future generations is a collective responsibility;

34. Urges Parliaments and Governments to face the ecological threats affecting the production of food on our planet, including toxic wastes, soil degradation and erosion, desertification, deforestation and the depletion of the ozone layer, and especially urges the industrialized countries to decrease their consumption of natural resources, as recommended in the Brundtland report;

35. Stresses that food should be produced in ways which do not disturb the ecological balance;

Follow-up

36. Recommends that the governing bodies of the Inter-Parliamentary Union consider the establishment of an appropriate mechanism/body within the organization to follow up the deliberations on item 4 of the agenda of the 82nd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, and that such a body might be entitled the Group on Population, Food and Development.



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Agenda item 6

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a
non-governmental organization in consultative status with
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The Secretariat has received the following statement, which is circulated
in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Economic and Social Council
resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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The 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Nicosia in April 1990, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

EMPLOYMENT, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR RELEVANCE
TO PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, */

Noting that the Inter-Parliamentary Union has on more than one occasion examined various aspects of this issue, and recalling in particular the resolutions adopted by the 64th (September 1977), 67th (September 1980), 70th (October 1983), 74th (September 1985), 75th (April 1986) and 79th (April 1988) Inter-Parliamentary Conferences, as well as the Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Employment in Africa (Dakar, October 1985),

Also noting that during the past 50 years, two major world trends have emerged: an unprecedented population growth rate and a striking acceleration in the acquisition of scientific knowledge,

Recognizing that, as a consequence of the above trends and of other factors, at present 800 million people are unemployed or underemployed and 1 billion people are living below the poverty line, while technological advancement continues to gather momentum, requiring constant review and redefinition of the utilization of manpower and planning for future manpower needs,

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Associate members: Andean Parliament and European Parliament.

Also recognizing that wealth creation in agriculture and industry is an increasingly urgent priority in the growing crisis in developing countries due in part to the debt burden,

Considering that employment, training and technology are the foundations of the sustainable development and economic and social progress of States,

Convinced that, in human terms, unemployment and the poverty to which it leads are inadmissible, and that they can create tension capable of threatening social peace,

Noting the importance of education and training in the implementation of employment policies and programmes and the need to harmonize, with a view to effective implementation, teaching and training plans with the present and future needs of the labour market,

Considering that, with regard to the implementation of training policies and programmes, developing countries face several problems which require close international co-operation to enable them to achieve full employment and economic recovery,

Recognizing that education and practical skill-oriented training are two of the keys to increased economic activity, and enhance both output and productivity,

Firmly convinced therefore that priority should be given to training, both in national human resource development strategies and in the support strategies of international and bilateral aid agencies,

Regarding new technology as an important instrument in solving the unemployment problem, and convinced that:

- (a) It must be cheap, appropriate and locally renewable,
- (b) Skills training should be unlimited by gender, race, nationality or creed,
- (c) For lasting impact, technology should be requested by local people,
- (d) Technology transferred should be of proper quality and comply with international standards,
- (e) Technology should be capable of being upgraded or replaced as technological innovations and developments occur,

Referring to the following new technologies that can improve the quality of life:

- (a) Biotechnology and genetic engineering for combating disease, for promoting health, for improving agricultural yields and for developing environment-friendly processes,
- (b) Information and communications technology for rapid and world-wide data exchange,

(c) Energy technology for meeting energy requirements (e.g., solar energy),

(d) Transport technology for rapid movement of persons and goods,

(e) Space technology for locating natural resources or pinpointing environmental damage, and for data transfer,

(f) Environmental technology for curbing and avoiding pollution at all levels: national, regional and global,

(g) Technology for modern production processes,

Aware, however, of the potential dangers of improper or irresponsible use of new technologies, e.g.:

(a) The danger to life created by biotechnology,

(b) The global threat created by nuclear technology,

(c) Pollution of the biosphere,

(d) Surveillance of people through the misuse of information,

Noting that, in implementing restructuring programmes, Governments of countries represented in the Inter-Parliamentary Union should take steps to adopt employment-oriented policies and enhance the social protection of the vulnerable sections of the population,

Deeming it necessary for international organizations, in particular the International Labour Organisation, to step up their assistance to developing countries so as to enable the latter to implement policies and programmes likely to expand employment opportunities, develop human resources and promote the utilization and assimilation of appropriate new technologies,

A. Economic and legislative measures for enhancement of employment prospects

1. Invites Governments and Parliaments to pursue employment-oriented policies by encouraging the mobilization of investment, improving productivity, undertaking exchange rate adjustment and promoting flexibility in the labour market;

2. Recommends that countries initiate or further promote a process of socio-economic development characterized by a socially beneficial market structure;

3. Further recommends that the financially, economically and technologically stronger countries support the developing countries to the best of their ability;

4. Calls on all Governments and Parliaments to ensure that employment strategies for both men and women are an integral part of economic and social development strategies, and of plans designed to satisfy the people's basic needs, in conformity with the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Employment Conference and the high-level meeting on employment and adjustment;

5. Also calls on all countries to create or expand the legal prerequisites for guaranteeing the humane and socially just development of society by ensuring that technology develops in a humane way;

6. Considers it imperative that the increased productivity and growth generated by the use of new technologies be accompanied by labour legislation that enables everyone seeking employment to be integrated into the work process;

7. Calls on Governments and Parliaments to accord technology development and transfer the priority they require in all employment strategies;

8. Also calls on creditor countries and international financial institutions to recognize the negative effects of the heavy debt burden on employment and to take active measures to alleviate this burden;

B. Education and training

9. Considers that training in general is fundamental to the promotion of development and social justice;

10. Calls on Parliaments to urge their respective Governments to link research and training policies to development policies in order to ensure that the persons trained are capable of mastering and promoting technological progress;

11. Stresses the importance of reforming institutional training and promoting enterprise-based training and sandwich courses so as to better meet labour market needs;

12. Calls on all Governments and Parliaments to keep the following considerations in mind when drafting national training policies:

(a) The need for training policies to be realistic and flexible enough to cope with unforeseen labour market needs;

(b) The need to broaden training to cover remunerated employment as well as self-employment;

13. Also calls on States to promote scientific, technical and vocational teaching so that it may play its true role, which consists of:

(a) Training competent administrators in accordance with needs;

(b) Training trainers responsible for developing research, and promoting the training of future education administrators and administrators responsible for design and management in companies;

(c) Preparing persons to master the channels of development;

(d) Developing vocational training centres;

(e) Ensuring local production of suitable technologies and efficient transfer of technologies;

14. Calls attention to the need to adopt measures to promote self-development;

15. Suggests that:

(a) At school level, schools concentrate on providing a sound general education, imparting broad cognitive and physical skills as a basis for job-specific training in the modern sector, and also provide education relevant to rural employment;

(b) At a higher educational level, close relationships be established between institutions and prospective employers of trainees, by involving employers as advisers or in the management of the institutions and in the design of their programmes;

16. Deems it necessary to expand continuing education qualitatively and quantitatively so that it becomes an independent area of education and, in so doing, to take into account the future need for the continuing education of specialists and the increasing need to provide semi-skilled and unskilled workers and the unemployed with opportunities for late qualification;

17. Calls attention to the training needs of advanced technology which should be met by the provision of training for emerging new occupations and training that is broad rather than specialized and is continually adapted;

18. Insists that training should be provided to all men and women, including the disabled, without discrimination as to race, nationality or religion;

19. Draws attention to the fact that the needs of the informal sector should be addressed;

20. Strongly urges all Parliaments to promote the adoption of legislative measures ensuring the effective participation of workers, employers and Governments in the definition and implementation of training policy;

21. Emphasizes the need for special measures to provide handicapped and other disadvantaged young people with the opportunity to acquire a vocational qualification;

22. Stresses the need to provide suitable education and training for children of refugees, foreigners and persons expelled from their countries of origin, and requests international support therefor;

C. New technologies

23. Calls on Governments and Parliaments:

(a) To take into consideration the concept of choice of technologies, the importance of promoting new employment opportunities, the satisfaction of the basic needs of the people and the improvement of working conditions;

(b) To ensure that workers or their representatives are involved in the introduction of new technologies;

(c) To work to avoid or alleviate, where necessary, the adverse effects of technological progress on employees;

24. Appeals for the introduction of policies that offset the negative impact of adjustment measures on job opportunities for both men and women in technological sectors, in particular through the adoption of measures focusing on the employment potential of young women and of mothers wishing to return to work;

25. Emphasizes the need for special measures to provide mentally and physically handicapped persons and disadvantaged young people with opportunities for careers involving new technologies;

26. Recognizes the importance of making provision for the employment of older workers in new technology sectors;

27. Stresses the need to offer permanent employment choices in technology sectors also to children of refugees, foreigners, displaced persons and those excluded from their countries of origin;

28. Requests States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and bilateral agencies to provide, adapt, disseminate and support technologies which can increase productivity, create new employment and spread wealth, especially to the poor, and help to preserve the environment, thus contributing to sustainable development;

29. Further requests them to promote, among local populations, the development and use of technologies, and to devote increased attention to building national capacity in appropriate sciences and technologies.





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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Council of Women and World Federation of Democratic Youth, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (category I), by the Associated Country Women of the World, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Jewish Women, International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, Medical Women's International Association, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation of Methodist Women and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council (category II), and by the International Juridical Organization, a non-governmental organization on the Register.

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

Our organizations welcome the convening of a second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which several of us will attend as observers.

We should like to take the opportunity to make some comments on the situation of women in the least developed countries.

The Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries adopted by the first United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries noted that:

"Within the framework of a transformation of rural life in its economic, social, cultural, institutional and human aspects, policies are needed which recognize the role of women in rural development and ensure their equitable access to production resources, especially land and water resources, and to inputs, markets and services." 1/

We should also like to draw attention to chapter II, Development, and chapter V.5, Participation of women in activities at the international and regional levels and in decision-making, of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. If rural women in the least developed countries are to be able to benefit from the desired improvements, various conditions will have to be met, for example:

(a) That equal rights for men and women should be recognized in countries' national law as they are by United Nations bodies and organizations, including in particular the International Labour Office and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(b) That development projects for women should secure their active participation and be given greater scope and importance;

(c) That national non-governmental organizations should participate in information activities, promotion of public awareness and implementation at the local and national levels;

(d) That there should be equal access for the two sexes to literacy teaching training and credit.

The present situation in the least developed countries demands urgent action. This should in particular strengthen the participation of women, and hence assure the future of generations to come.

1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, sales No.: F.82.I.8), Chapter I, section A.

On 20 November last, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the General Assembly. It is to be hoped that application of this Convention will follow within a short period, together with achievement of the minimum conditions for development set forth in the Substantial New Programme of Action and referred to above.

Our organizations accordingly urge that in the follow-up to the second "Paris conference" the situation of women in the least developed countries should be the subject of practical measures to be put into effect promptly, for the benefit of all concerned.
